From: Knipp, Eric

To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'

Date: 1/23/02 1:44pm **Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

The microsoft settlement does not address the concerns of illegal and unfair practices in pushing its products onto its distribution partners. Microsoft has used its dominant position in the software market to unfair advantage, locking potential compeitors out of the picture by arm-twisting and flat-out threatening its distribution partners. This has resulted in a severe imbalance in the software market, creating a scenario where Microsoft increasingly wields more power to dictate what consumers are ultimately able to buy; no longer are we in a free market where software is concerned, we are rather entering into an era where one company decides what all consumers have the priviledge to buy, and now Washington is going to help them do it. I am not satisfied with the government's handling of the Microsoft case and I want to see it revisited. Unless Microsoft is truly punished and prevented from continuing its unfair practices, I do not see a bright future for the software industry (except where Microsoft alone is concerned).

Eric Knipp